

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /031 W

----- 122024

R 081533Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9970

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6868

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT CULTURAL AGREEMENT INCORPORATING CHANGES SUGGESTED BY MFA AFTER PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COUNCIL. CHANGES ARE RELATIVELY MINOR IN EMBASSY VIEW, AND BRING LANGUAGE CLOSER TO STANDARD PROVISIONS IN AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ALSO INCLUDED IN NEW DRAFT IS PROVISION CALLING FOR MUTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL CENTERS. THIS IS EMBASSY INITIATIVE BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MINCUL OFFICIALS WHO NOW BELIEVE IT BEST TO INCLUDE CULTURAL CENTER PROVISION IN BASIC AGREEMENT.

2. TEXT: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC; DESIRING TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND TO HELP IMPROVE THE GENERAL STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; BELIEVING THAT THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONTACTS, EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE AIMS; TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POSITIVE EXPERIENCE ACHIEVED THROUGH AGREEMENTS ON EXCHANGES IN THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL FIELDS; HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

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ARTICLE I. (1) THE PARTIES WILL ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP

CONTACTS, EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

ARTICLE II. (1) THE PARTIES WILL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF CONTACTS, EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION. TO THIS END THE PARTIES WILL: (A) PROVIDE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS AND FACULTY MEMBERS FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH IN FIELDS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON INCLUDING VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC FIELDS; PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS TO LECTURE, OFFER INSTRUCTION AND CONDUCT RESEARCH AS PROVIDED IN THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND APPROPRIATE LAWS AND DECREES IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC; EACH COUNTRY WILL OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO NATIONALS OF THE OTHER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNUAL BUDGETARY LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE DONOR COUNTRY; AND

(B) FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE, BY APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS, OF EDUCATION (INCLUDING HIGHER EDUCATION) AND TEACHING MATERIALS, INCLUDING TEXTBOOKS, SYLLABI AND CURRICULA, MATERIALS ON METHODOLOGY, SAMPLES OF TEACHING INSTRUMENTS AND VISUAL AIDS.

(2) THE PARTIES WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF EACH OTHER'S LANGUAGE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION LISTED ABOVE AND THROUGH OTHER MUTUALLY AGREED MEASURES. (3) EACH OF THE PARTIES WILL ESTABLISH ON THE TERRITORY OF THE OTHER CULTURAL CENTERS AFTER PRIOR CONSULTATION AND IN CONFORMANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE.

ARTICLE III. IN ORDER TO PROMOTE BETTER MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY, THE PARTIES WILL: (A) ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXCHANGES IN PERFORMING ARTS SUCH AS THEATRICAL, MUSICAL AND CHOREOGRAPHIC ENSEMBLES, ORCHESTRAS AND ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS; (B) FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF EXHIBITIONS AND MUSEUM ITEMS; (C) PROMOTE MUTUAL VISITS OF ARTISTS, WRITERS AND SPECIALISTS IN ALL ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES, ESPECIALLY WHEN SUCH VISITS ARE UNDERTAKEN FOR PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA; (D) RENDER ASSISTANCE FOR OFFICIALS OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WISHING TO STUDY

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VARIOUS FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AT REPECTIVE LEVELS, AND (E) ENCOURAGE VISITS AND EXCHANGES OF ATHLETES, ATHLETIC TEAMS, TEACHERS AND SPECIALISTS IN VARIOUS SPORTS ENDEAVORS.

ARTICLE IV. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION OF THIS AGREEMENT EACH ONE OF THE PARTIES WILL DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE ACCREDITED BY HIS GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT PERIODICAL PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL

COOPERATION AND TO DEAL WITH FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS RELATIVE TO THE EXECUTION OF THESE PROGRAMS. THE PLACE AND DATES OF THEIR CONSULTATIONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

ARTICLE V. (1) EACH OF THE TWO PARTIES WILL RATIFY THIS AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO THE LAWS IN FORCE, AND IT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE FROM THE DATE OF THE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES CONTAINING NOTIFICATION OF RATIFICATION. THE AGREEMENT WILL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF EXECUTION, AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF TWO YEARS. EITHER PARTY MAY TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT UPON SIX MONTHS WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO THE OTHER BEFORE THE DATE OF EXPIRATION OF EACH TWO YEAR PERIOD.

DONE THIS DAY OF , IN DUPLICATE IN THE ENGLISH AND ARABIC LANGUAGES, BOTH TEXT BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC. END TEXT.

3. ABOVE TEXT CURRENTLY BEING CIRCULATED THROUGH APPROPRIATE OFFICES WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC SPEED. NEW MINISTER OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE TOLD AMBASSADOR WHE HAS SEEN TEXT AND HAS GIVEN CONCURRENCE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE APPROVAL TO SIGN TEXT SOONEST. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC06868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760381-0549
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761069/aaaachrr.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT
TAGS: OEXC, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006